

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 REYKJA 00568 231909Z

12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02

/052 W

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R 231635Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5360

INFO CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0568

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB IC

SUBJECT: LABOR FEDERATION SETS JUNE 11 GENERAL STRIKE DEADLINE

REF: REYKJAVIK 0345

1. ICELANDIC FEDERATION OF LABOR'S NEGOTIATING TEAM AND TEAM'S BACKSTOPPING COMMITTEE YESTERDAY URGED GENERAL STRIKE BEGINNING JUNE 11 IF NEW WAGE/TERM SETTLEMENT IS NOT REACHED BY THAT DATE. DECISION, IN EFFECT, AMOUNTS TO ENDORSEMENT BY IFL AS WHOLE OF STRIKE CALL. AT SAME TIME, LABOR ISSUED LIST OF DEMANDS FOR NEW AGREEMENT THAT INCLUDES 38-39 PERCENT AVERAGE WAGE INCREASE AND RESTORATION OF WAGE-PRICE INDEX.

2. LABOR AND MANAGEMENT NEGOTIATORS HAVE BEEN MEETING FOR PAST TWO WEEKS IN EFFORT TO REACH TERMS TO REPLACE TEMPORARY PACT SIGNED IN MARCH (REFTTEL) WHICH EXPIRES AUTOMATICALLY JUNE 1. LITTLE OR NO PROGRESS HAS BEEN REPORTED.

3. COMMENT: INDICATIONS ARE THAT THERE HAS BEEN A HARDENING OF
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LABOR'S ATTITUDE SINCE TEMPORARY AGREEMENT REACHED AND THAT THERE IS LESS INCLINATION THAN DURING EARLIER ROUND OF TALKS TO

GO TO GREAT LENGTHS TO AVOID STRIKE. CHANGE IN MOOD RESULTS IN
PART SIMPLY FROM UNWILLINGNESS TO SETTLE FOR LONG-TERM AGREEMENT
WITHOUT EFFECTIVE PROVISIONS TO OFFSET CONTINUING INCREASE IN
COST OF LIVING, BUT RECENT WAVE OF MILITANCY -- INCLUDING
STRIKES -- BY NON-IFL UNIONS MAY ALSO BE HAVING EFFECT. ON
OTHER HAND, AGREEMENT BASED ON LATEST IFL DEMANDS (ABOVE)
WOULD CLEARLY BE UNACCEPTABLE TO GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAS MAINTAINED
STRENUOUSLY THAT ECONOMY CANNOT TOLERATE GENERAL WAGE HIKE.
IN SUM, THERE IS WIDE GAP TO BE BRIDGED IN SHORT TIME IF STRIKE
IS TO BE AVERTED.
IRVING

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Message Attributes

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